GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Published Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(The National Geographic Society is a scientific and educational Society, wholly altruistic, incorporated under the Federal law as a non-commercial institution for the increase of geographic knowledge and its popular diffusion.)

General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

CONTENTS FOR WEEK OF NOVEMBER 3, 1924.

Vol. III. No. 15

1. Nejd and Hasa: The Arabian State Which Attacked Mecca.

2. Tibetan Monks Curtail World's Perfumery Supply.

3. Chekiang: The Silk and Egg Province of China.

4. "Made from Milk."

5. The Pony Express: A Telegraph of Flesh and Blood.

NOTICE TO TEACHERS

It will facilitate greatly our handling of the Geographic News Bulletin mailing list if school officials and teachers will mail us requests for the Bulletins as early as possible in the school year.

Educators who now receive the Bulletins can cooperate with the National Geographic Society if they make this request known to their associates through notices or by announcements.

The demand for back copies from those who do not request their bulletins until later in the year always is heavy and only a limited number of these can be supplied.

HOW TO OBTAIN THE BULLETIN

The Geographic News Bulletin is published weekly throughout the school year (thirty issues) and will be mailed to teachers for one year upon receipt of 25 cents (in stamps or money order). Entered as second-class matter, January 27, 1922, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized February 9, 1922.

© National Geographic Society.

HE IS 78 YEARS OLD, BUT HE IS CARRYING 100 POUNDS OF TEA

Sometimes as much as 280 catties (370 pounds) are carried across the mountain passes of Szechuan by a Chinese coolie. Often boys 12 and 15 years old are seen carrying as much as 75 pounds for days at a time.

GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Published Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(Founded in 1888 for the Increase and Diffusion of Geographic Knowledge)

General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

Nejd and Hasa: The Arabian State Which Attacked Mecca

THE Emir of Nejd and Hasa, whose attack upon the Moslem Holy City of Mecca caused King Husein to abdicate the throne of Hejaz and the Caliphate, rules over one of the dozen or more new states that have sprung up in Arabia.

The prosperity of Nejd and Hasa affects the watch factories of Massachusetts, the phonograph record makers of New Jersey and the cotton plantation owners of Georgia.

The "ultimate consumer" of these American products may be the wearer of a wrist watch who has halted his camel caravan under a friendly palm, an olive Arab maid whose trousered costume of American cotton cloth is set off by a goat's hair toque, or a band of roystering pearl divers who seek surcease from their work among the sharks by gazing nightly at the very ancient gyrations of a dancing lady of Arabia to the tune of a new American phonograph.

A Song for a Mermaid's Tear

To note that a prima donna has traded a song for a mermaid's tear from the waters off the mountain of the mist, does not sound like trade. But when Mme. Blank, whose voice commands ten dollars per seat, is in the market for a string of Bahrein pearls, the jewelers on Fifth Avenue or Bond Street wax business-like. Yet the first statement is as literal as the second. If one translates Arabic place names into English but does not translate commodities into dollar marks he has a ready antidote for much that seems mystical. As for the song, it may be recorded and produced again for the ears of the divers who gathered the pearls.

The daily life in the oasis patches of desert-rimmed Nejd, with its dromedaries and dates and horses of high pedigree, is fascinating enough, but the Persian Gulf coastal strip from Koweit down to Katar is all the stranger for the presence of customs of many far-away lands.

Where Sheiks Wear Dollar Watches

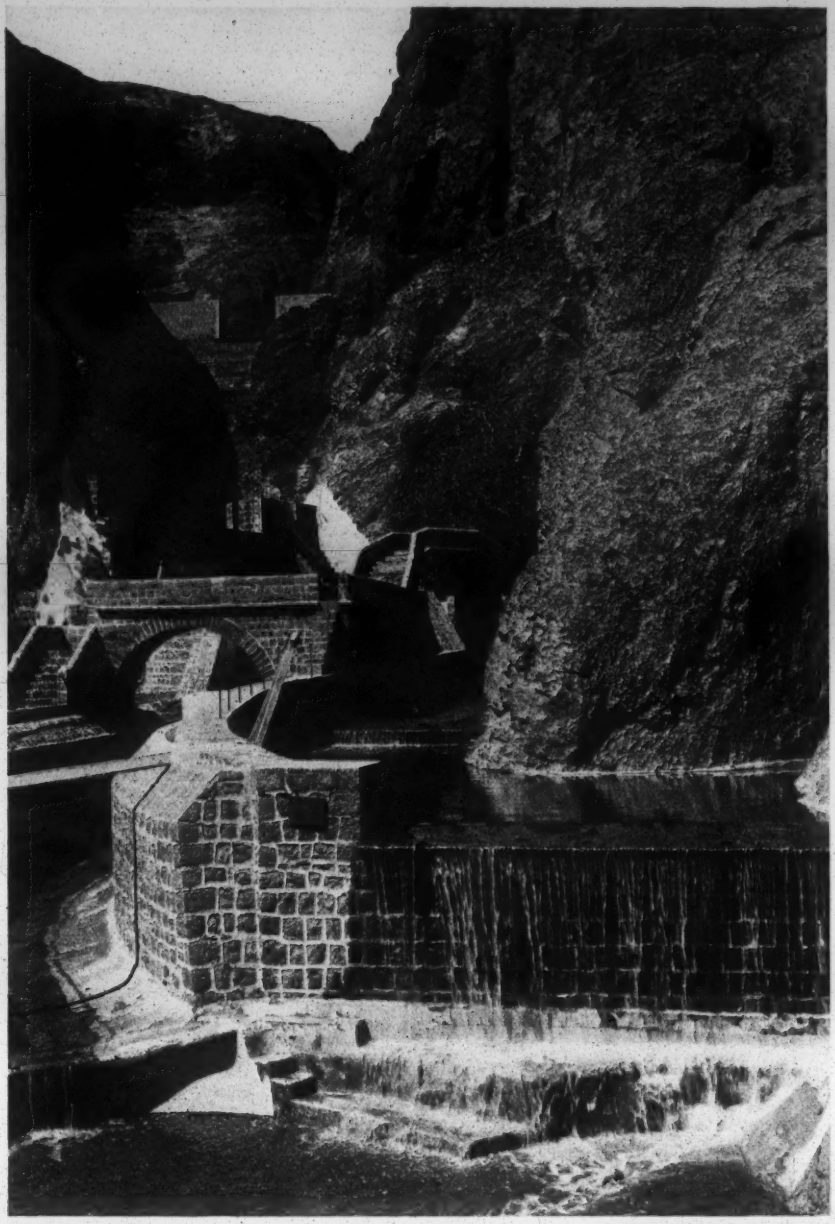
Here slavery survives in spite of international conventions to the contrary, and nomad sheiks wear dollar watches. Here the flea-bitten camel is the freight car and the Arabian horse the limousine, though automobiles have been introduced and a railway runs down from Bagdad, through Eden-land, to the head of the Persian Gulf. However, the shrine of romance of this new land which emerged, along with Hejaz, Mesopotamia and Transjordania, as a political entity, lies in the waters off the Bahrein Islands.

Here brown men play with death so the swains of many races may spell their love of women in pearls. A pearl buyer at Basra casually let fall the enduring truth which will be seized by the slogan writer who tries to "promote" Bahrein—"As long as there are pretty women there will be men buying pearls."

The Perils of Diving for Pearls

The stalwart, naked diver who clamps his nostrils with a forked bone, plugs his ears with beeswax and ties a stone to his feet, faces other perils than sharks.

UMI



© National Geographic Society.

THE FAMOUS TANKS OF ADEN, SET DEEP IN THE POCKETS OF SURROUNDING HILLS, WHERE THEY CATCH AND STORE THE SCANT RAINFALL OF THIS REGION OF ARABIA

Who built these great reservoirs geographers will not venture to say definitely, but they are supposed to have been the work of the enlightened sons of Sheba's queen. They are believed to be 1,500 years old, and for centuries they were filled with debris and forgotten. An English officer excavated them in 1856 and found their masonry intact.

GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Published Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(Founded in 1888 for the Increase and Diffusion of Geographic Knowledge)

General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

Tibetan Monks Curtail World's Perfumery Supply

MUSK, the most penetrating, and already one of the most costly substances used in "fixing" perfumes, may soon be dearer than rare jewels because the lamas of Tsarung in southeast Tibet have issued an edict that hunters caught killing musk deer will have their hands cut off and nailed on the temple doors, according to Dr. Joseph F. Rock, explorer for The National Geographic Society, who recently returned from an expedition to the Chinese-Tibet border.

"The tiny musk deer, due to the perfumers' attempts to satisfy the demands of fashion, is becoming very scarce in this mountainous district which is the world's single source of highest grade natural musk," Dr. Rock says. "Growing scarcity of the deer led the lamas to restrict hunting. The musk sack, which is about the size of a crab apple, occurs on the belly of the male of the species. Since there are about five females to every male, many must be caught to obtain a small quantity of musk. The traps either kill or fatally maim all deer caught so that hunting reduces rapidly the number of potential reproducing members of the species.

Musk Deer Tiny Creatures

"The musk deer are very small; approximately the size of a goat. When a male is killed the sack is removed, wrapped in tin foil, and shipped in strong, silk-covered boxes. One representative of a French perfume firm has lived on the border of Tibet for twenty years for the sole purpose of buying musk from native hunters. Even at the source of supply in this remote district, musk is very costly."

Musk is a necessary element of nearly all high-grade perfumes. Ordinarily the layman cannot detect it because it is used as a base to carry the more perishable and less penetrating floral perfumes such as rose, lilac, violet and lily of the valley. The only other source of natural musk is the Altai Mountains in mid-Asia, but the product from deer of this range is much inferior to the Tsarung musk. Since this scent has long been one of the essentials of perfume and has always been costly it was one of the first to be manufactured synthetically. But the manufactured grades now available do not measure up to the natural product and are only used in cheaper perfumes. Natural musk is said to be so penetrating and so capable of retaining its strength that an infinitesimal bit will scent a large room for more than two years.

Bootlegging in Musk

Despite the lamas' decree with its terrible penalty there will probably be some bootlegging in musk. Increasing scarcity of the musk deer and the edict are expected to combine, however, to send prices sky-high.

Innumerable flower scents are used by perfumers in their art but only four animal perfumes are regularly employed. Scarcely could more diverse creatures be conceived than the four represented on the perfumer's shelves; nor more diverse habitats, nor more diverse corners of the earth as sources of supply.

In addition to the musk deer, there is the pot-whale of the Indian Ocean which supplies ambergris, the beaver of Canada and Siberia which supplies castor, and

UMI

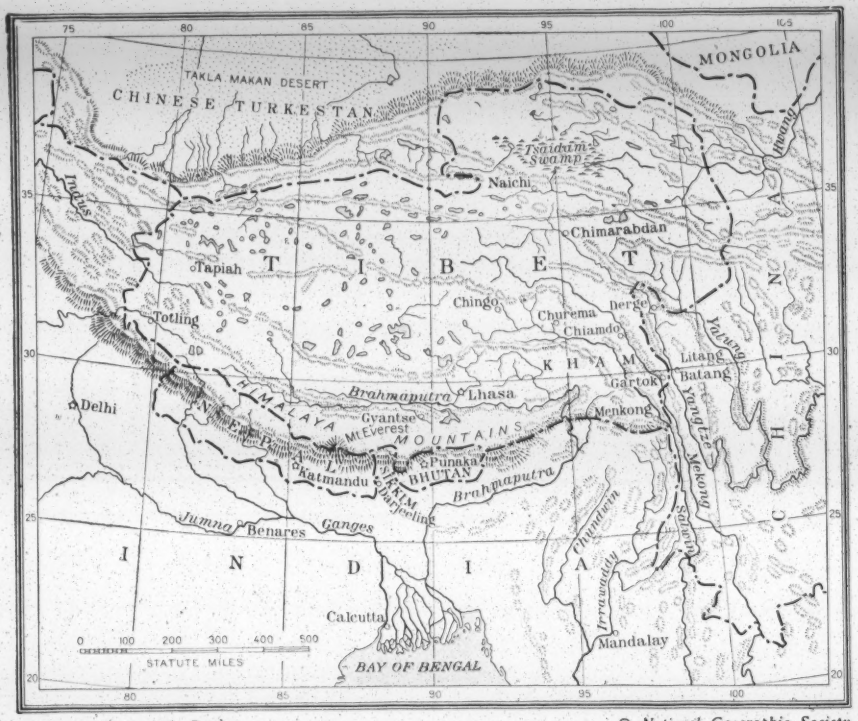
Poison rays may sting him, there is the ever-present danger of staying under water too long, and the slower death from successive bleedings of the nose, caused by deep diving. The diver has little time to think of dangers, but he must not become too absorbed in his submarine search to jerk the cord which signals his comrades to pull him up.

The diving season lasts from June to November and the waters during that period are flecked with several thousand boats from which the divers work. In each of these boats are from half a dozen to a dozen men and ashore are many buyers, traders, and "hangers-on." Of the night life one writer says:

"A night on this barbaric, tumultuous beach is not readily forgotten. A long row of mud-walled, straw-covered coffee shops stretches the length of Menameh's water front, and from red sunset till flaring, noisy dawn the revels of the careless boatmen run their brawling course. There are cheap, gaudy native theaters, too, where slovenly Arab girls, all beads, bracelets, anklets, spangles, and tattoo work, sway through the sinuous dances of the Oriental midways."

From these islands the Phoenicians are believed to have gone north to the Mediterranean. They are only twenty miles off the coast of Hasa, to the south of El Katif, city of underground water which gushes from many springs.

Bulletin No. 1, November 3, 1924.



Drawn by James M. Darley. © *National Geographic Society.*

A MAP OF TIBET AND BORDER COUNTRIES. (See Bulletin No. 2.)

The meagerness of authentic information concerning the interior of Tibet is indicated by the fact that the population of its 463,000 square miles is variously estimated at from 1,500,000 to 6,000,000. The only census taken of the country was that conducted by the Chinese nearly two hundred years ago, showing 316,000 lamas (monks) and 635,000 laity. For a more detailed map of this region, see the National Geographic Society's "Map of Asia."

GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Published Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(Founded in 1888 for the Increase and Diffusion of Geographic Knowledge)

General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

Chekiang: The Silk and Egg Province of China

MANCHURIA, Peking, Shanghai, and many other place names that appear in reports of China's civil strife are well known to Americans. Not so Chekiang, home province of Tuchun Lu and a large part of his forces who defended Shanghai.

In some respects Chekiang is the Indiana of China. Its area approximates that of the Hoosier State, though it has a population as dense as that of Rhode Island. Like Indiana, also, it has diverse industries, and is not dominated by any one great city, as is the case with Kiangsu, to its north, where Shanghai overshadows provincial life.

White Silk in American Stores

True, Chekiang has Hangchow, ancient Chinese Capital and erstwhile center of statecraft and learning. And, although Hangchow's white silk is the prize goods of America's fashionable shops, the city's principal interest for the traveler is in its scenic beauties and historic shrines.

Besides Hangchow, Chekiang also has Shaohing, famed for a liquor brewed from the waters of a local lake; the waning treaty port of Ningpo; mountain-bound Huchow, scene of a three-year siege by Taiping rebels, and Kashing, celebrated egg center. Poultry, like silk, essentially is a home industry and some families use an artificial process to hatch 50,000 or more eggs a year.

From the Kashing region of Chekiang comes pitan, esteemed by epicures from all over China. Pitan consists of ducks' eggs preserved in a mixture of lime, salt and rice hulls, during which process the white of the egg solidifies and takes on a greenish black color and a taste which is conceded to be incomparable, both by those who like it and by those who do not.

Fighting Often a Dilettante Procedure

A peculiar feature of the fighting of Chekiang troops reported in dispatches is the firing of rifles and artillery into the skies. The Chinese are believed to have invented gunpowder, but they still use it more effectively for fireworks than for projectiles. In war, as in peace, the Chinese are philosophical. In a previous war between a Hangchow army and their northern neighbors history records that it rained on the day of a scheduled battle. The Hangchow commanders sent a request to the opposing general asking that fighting be postponed until the weather was more favorable. The arrangement was mutually agreeable.

Chekiang is the third most densely populated province of crowded China, and the burden of supporting its seventeen millions is thrown on the fertile plains of its north. Its people thin out appreciably among the mountains in the west and south. These wooded mountains, many rivers dotted with groups of tiny islands, and the Grand Canal which terminates at Hangchow, all go to make the province one of the most picturesque in Eastern China.

the civet cat of Abyssinia and India, which supplies civet. These animals represent the mountains, the seas, the tropical jungles and Arctic swamps.

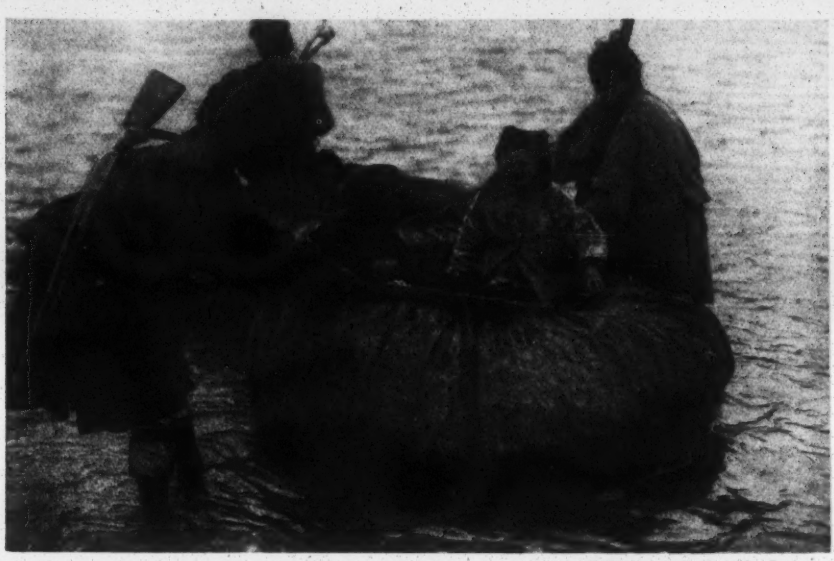
Fortunes in Ambergris

Ambergris is to the mariner what a huge gold nugget is to a prospecter. Its origin is somewhat obscure, but it is a fatty substance believed to be formed in the intestines of the pot-whale. Usually it is found floating in the ocean or cast up on the shore; a piece as large as a man's fist is regarded as a great find. Many an old New England skipper dreamed of finding a piece of ambergris and retiring from his stern calling to a comfortable farm in the New England countryside, for a "nugget" of ambergris is worth a small fortune.

Like musk, civet and castor occur in small sacks, but in the latter cases on the bellies of the civet cat and beaver respectively. The best civet is said to come from Abyssinia and the best castor from Siberia. Civet is used more extensively than castor.

No animal perfume is used by itself. In the natural state the overpowering, concentrated odor is disgusting to most people. Travelers who have seen the removal of the scent glands from penned civet cats in Abyssinia say the atmosphere in the immediate vicinity is as hard on occidental noses as the odor of skunk. Perfumers dissolve the natural substance of animal odors and dilute it hundreds of times until the scent is barely observable. This diluted substance, however, works wonders with the floral scents; it not only magnifies their natural fragrance, but also serves to make more permanent perfumes which would become weak with age.

Some of the best known perfumes contain traces of the animal perfumes. Ambre, bouquet de l'amour, and some of the d'Esterhazy bouquets contain both ambergris and musk. Different formulas of the familiar Jockey Club call for ambergris, civet and musk. Animal perfumes are not used in the various kinds of eau de Cologne.



© *National Geographic Society.*

CORACLES, OR SKIN BOATS, USED FOR CROSSING TIBETAN STREAMS

Such a craft has a framework of wattles over which is stretched green yak hides. The seams are sealed with pitch, which makes the boat practically watertight. Unless a person is careful, he is liable to stick his heel through the bottom, in which case it becomes necessary for him to keep it there until the boat has reached the other shore. A coracle is propelled by a native, who puts the broad paddle far out into the water and pulls it toward him.

GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Published Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(Founded in 1888 for the Increase and Diffusion of Geographic Knowledge)

General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

"Made From Milk"

IF THE humble cow ever aspired to trademark her products the average shopper would be amazed at the labels "Made from milk" which would adorn his purchases—purchases ranging from horn-rim spectacles to chess men, magazines and radio sets.

Consider a debutante's ball which is a most inappropriate place to contemplate the unromantic cow. The occasion would lose much of its glamour if the cow didn't supply the milk which helps provide many other adjuncts than the ice cream.

When Cow Is a Cinderella

Yonder maiden's burnished golden hair is kept in place by a flaring comb made of milk, she toys with a milk-handled fan, she made her toilet somewhat hastily with an array of articles largely made of milk, after she received her belated invitation from a procrastinating young man through a telephone receiver made of milk. She is jotting down her dance engagements on a program, made of milk, while she chats during intermission with an escort flecking ashes from a cigarette in a milk-made holder.

Sounds a bit far-fetched, doesn't it? But three per cent of casein in cow's milk is the raw material for a kaleidoscopic array of manufactured products.

Nor does this take into account that, for every six couples at the dance, somewhere in the background is one cow. For at our present rate of consumption every twelve persons consume the milk product of one cow.

Milk as Staff of Life

Bread has a reputation for being the "staff of life," but milk more nearly fulfills that definition. Substitutes for our customary breads may be had; but there is no substitute for milk. Our civilization depends literally upon a plentiful supply of good milk.

Even the elimination of the casein from milk, the element which provides most of the by-products, would be inconvenient. Chemically, casein is the principal nitrogenous constituent of milk; popularly, it is the "curd"; and its first and principal use is for cheese.

Our animal immigrants have been neglected. Their importance deserves a society of their descendants. Economic geography has been influenced by the animal winners of our West. When, in 1626, a packet of the Dutch West India Company landed on Manhattan Island with a cargo of domestic animals and agricultural implements it paved the way for a principal industry of the Empire State of 1924. Economically, the New Amsterdam settlers were cheese-makers.

Westward Course of Cheese-Making

After the Black Hawk War, in 1832, the progeny of these settlers shaped Wisconsin's economic destiny by driving their covered wagons up the west shore of Lake Michigan. Wherefore Wisconsin in one year has produced nine million dollars' worth of cheese.

The very names of cheeses—Cheshire, Gorgonzola, Edam, Cheddar, Par-

UMI

Farmer Outranks the Soldier

The farmer and the farm-hand of Chekiang are highly respected. Cultivation is intense but modern implements or fertilizers have small chance of adoption because the farmers are too poor to buy them. In the social scale of Chekiang the soldier ranks below the farmer. Frequently the soldier is a family outcast and the haphazard character of much of the fighting in the present skirmishes may arise from the fact that the discipline of the army is much less rigorous than that of the soil.

Both farming and fighting are handicapped by the complete absence of any roads. There are only paths worn by plodding oxen, carabaos, and coolies.

Here and there, in Chekiang's fierce struggle for rice to eat and silk to sell, traces of its ancient aristocracy remain.

The "Cabarets" of Hangchow

West Lake, just west of Hangchow, retains the natural beauties which won high praise from Marco Polo. There, of an evening, a Hangchow gentleman entertains his friends on a sumptuous house-boat, as they lounge on divans, and eat dishes of a kind which, in all probability, Marco Polo tasted, for the chefs of these floating "cabarets" pride themselves on serving menus that were famous in centuries long past.

The ceremony for an evening's entertainment has an etiquette as rigid as the tea ceremony of Japan. At certain points in the lake tour the host must acclaim the charm of the "Beautiful Views." This is not a spontaneous matter at all; the views are numbered and named. Their names lend poetry to what seems a perfunctory method of enjoying natural scenery. One is "The Winding Hall of Fragrant Breezes"; another is "Willow Bay Where Eagles Are Heard"; Number Ten is "Two Cloud-Piercing Peaks."

The host also must engage entertainers. These are the "Sing-Song Girls." No more in Hangchow than in New York would an "artist" walk to a dinner party when she was to perform. But her "taxi" gives the western guest a moment's surprise. She arrives at the water's edge astride a coolie's back.

Coolie Is Cheapest Carrier

Though Hangchow has streets the coolie still is the more economical carrier. His two-wheel carts can handle from two to four tons, depending on the bulk. His back can bear a corpulent merchant, so that a run across town with a dainty "Sing-Song Girl" is a welcome relief. And he, with his wife and his children, are cheaper than donkey engines to operate the locks on the Grand Canal. For boat power he and his oars compete only with the cost of sails to catch the winds.

Not only the Grand Canal, but many lesser ones, traverse Chekiang and carry rice from the plains, tea from the mountains, and silk from everywhere, along with lesser quantities of cotton, indigo and sugar. These reed-sheltered channels also support innumerable duck farms and bear many house-boats and sampans.

Hangchow is reputed to have been the first Chinese soil where American missionaries set foot. Its libraries are famous, but they often constitute a principal point of attack for native revolutionaries because the peasantry believe they contain more secrets than heaven meant men to know. Students of Chinese art early will hear much of the "Chekiang School," so named for Tai Chin, a native of the province, and the Titian of a Chinese Renaissance in painting, which occurred about the time of the European awakening in art.

GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Published Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(Founded in 1888 for the Increase and Diffusion of Geographic Knowledge)

General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

The Pony Express: A Telegraph of Flesh and Blood

TO THE people of California and Utah of 1860 or 1861 the "Pony Express," which brought them war news only a week old, was almost as great a wonder as the Shenandoah's across-country trip.

The name, "Pony Express," raises a faint suggestion of romance in a few minds today, but with Macready and Kelly and Maughan flying from ocean to ocean in a matter of hours; with our night-flying postal airmen; with our railway trains that cross in four days; with our telegrams delivered within the hour; and able as we are to hear and recognize a voice while it is speaking 3,000 miles away; the accomplishments of the fearless post riders of 63 years ago are likely to be passed by as rather simple.

The establishment of this weekly—and later semi-weekly—service, clipping 10 days from the mail time across the continent, was an accomplishment of extreme importance. It has been credited with keeping California in the Union during Civil War days.

Nation Tied With Thongs of News

At the time the "Pony Express" came into being the accepted mail route to California was by steamer from New York to the Isthmus of Panama, across the isthmus by mule conveyance, and by ship from Panama to San Francisco—28 days. Later the mail stage line from St. Louis over the Santa Fe Trail, via Yuma, and thence into southern California took letters between the two terminal cities in 18 days. Beside these records the 10-day letter and 8-day telegram schedules of the Pony Express represented as great a stride forward as the transcontinental train service made over existing methods nine years later.

The winning of the West had advanced only as far as the Missouri River in the central section of the country in 1860. Beyond lay trackless prairies, rugged foothills, barrier mountains, and Indians. But farther on, beyond the Rockies, along the Pacific coast and in the Great Basin region, were half a million Americans building up another section of the United States far removed from its parent block.

Railroads already connected the East with St. Louis and an additional line had just been completed from St. Louis to St. Joseph, Missouri. The latter city, then, was the rail head of the United States and the ultimate western outpost of the ordered civilization of the East. Beyond it a few military posts and some scattered frontiersmen existed precariously among hostile Indians. The problem was to bridge this gap and tie the "two United States" together with the powerful thongs of news.

Left to Private Initiative

"St. Jo" also was the western end of the telegraph line from the east. On the Pacific side a telegraph line extended from San Francisco through Sacramento to Placerville, near Lake Tahoe. News could be flashed from New York and Washington to St. Joseph, could be carried from there to Placerville by pony, and could immediately be wired on to San Francisco. This enabled the "Pony Express" to make a two-day shorter schedule for telegrams than for mail.

Though government officials recognized the keen need for a fast mail service

niesan, and many others—read like a gazetteer. The genealogist, Sherlock Holmes of the family tree, might get important clues of people's origin by the cheeses they eat.

There is a fascination, too, in the making of cheese. The spherical Edam cones are reputed to be dark red to this day because, in the days before pure food laws, a consignment was tinted with a harmless solution of carmine. Just why people like to eat in pink, rather than yellow, is a problem for the psychologists, but that preference not only keeps the cheese red, but it has virtually eliminated yellow tomatoes from the market, and causes a heavy monetary loss to salmon shippers, if, perchance, their catch happens to be white instead of pink.

In recent years manufacturers have become active competitors of cheese-makers in buying casein. The substance is highly cohesive, and is little affected by heat or moisture. Hence it is used as glue, and also as a binder in making glazed paper, in dyeing cotton cloth, and in piecing together laminated furniture.

Bulletin No. 4, November 3, 1924.

© *National Geographic Society.*

WHERE A FAMOUS CHEESE COMES FROM

Edam is a small town and its population lives as their ancestors lived a century ago, but it is known in every part of the civilized world; for Edam gave its name to the cheese produced in the rich farming district that surrounds the town.

to the west coast, and though the westerners petitioned for it, the bills introduced into Congress for federal participation were killed. A private firm put the thing through: Russell, Majors and Waddell, owners of a freighting service and predecessors to the big express companies that grew up with the railroads. They organized the enterprise quietly and surprised the nation with advertisements in the spring of 1860, offering to carry letters to the Pacific in 10 days. The first riders to gallop west from St. Joseph and east from San Francisco April 3, 1860, were given enthusiastic and noisy send-offs and when the relay riders came in—on schedule—ten days later, both terminal towns suspended business and had glorious celebrations.

Hoofs Never Idle a Minute

What the "Pony Express" really did was to stretch a "telegraph line" of flesh and blood from frontier to frontier and to keep it functioning in spite of weather, Indians and desperadoes. Riders were mortally wounded by highwaymen or savages; but they carried on to the next station, their comrades took their places, and the mail sped on. Horses were changed every ten to twelve miles at stations established by the service. Riders had "runs" of approximately 75 miles. At the end of his run a rider would be relieved, would sleep and rest, and would then be ready to carry the next mail in the opposite direction to his starting point. Only a fraction of a minute was required to change the saddle bags from one mount to another. Every minute of night and day hoofs were pounding somewhere between "St. Jo" and "Frisco," and the mail was moving at as fast a gallop as horse-flesh could move it.

The route which the "Pony Express" made famous was so well chosen that today lines of steel cover it almost exactly. Leaving St. Joseph, it paralleled the present north boundary of Kansas for about a hundred miles, struck across to the Platte River at its southernmost dip in Nebraska, followed the South Platte valley to the present northeast corner of Colorado, went up the North Platte to Ft. Laramie in Wyoming and from there crossed over the Rockies by South Pass and on to Salt Lake City. The worst section of the route lay west of Salt Lake across the deserts and alkali plains of Utah and Nevada to Carson City. From Carson City it was only a few miles, though rough ones, to Lake Tahoe, and from there to Placerville.

Gave Way Only to Electricity

The famous service—which officially was "The Central Overland California and Pikes Peak Express Company"—lasted only sixteen months.

In 1861 the transcontinental telegraph was pushed ahead rapidly and at the same time the Federal Government started a subsidized daily stage mail line over the Pony route. For the last few months of its existence the "Pony Express" operated between the fast approaching ends of the telegraph line. On October 24, 1861, when the wires met and it became possible to flash messages immediately from ocean to ocean, the "Pony Express," as romantic an enterprise as American history discloses, gave up the ghost. It had bankrupted its promoters, but it had helped win the West.

Bulletin No. 5, November 3, 1924.